



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO KC MEN SENTENCED IN 'REVERSE STING' OPERATION FOR 400 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today for being in possession with intent to distribute 400 pounds of marijuana. The case resulted from a reverse sting operation, Graves said, in which a law enforcement officer delivered a tractor-trailer load of marijuana and methamphetamine to the defendants.

David Searcy, 27, and **Deandre Fugate**, 22, both of Kansas City, were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey in separate appearances this morning. **Fugate** was sentenced to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. **Searcy** was sentenced to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On May 24, 2004, **Searcy** and **Fugate** each pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana. **Searcy** and **Fugate** are among six co-defendants who have pleaded guilty to charges contained in a Nov. 21, 2003, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, the defendants admitted that they met at the Ameristar Casino on Oct. 7, 2003, and traveled together to a warehouse in Kansas City to receive the shipment of narcotics. They were arrested in a reverse sting operation in which an undercover law enforcement officer drove the tractor-trailer to deliver the narcotics, which was unloaded by the defendants, after the drug deal was arranged through a confidential informant.

Damon D. Franklin, 26, of Kansas City, was sentenced to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole on Aug. 19, 2004. The court sentenced **Franklin** as a career offender, Graves explained, due to his prior felony convictions for burglary and attempted burglary. On May 5, 2004, **Damon Franklin** pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana.

James D. Fugate, 20, of Kansas City, was sentenced to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole on Aug. 18, 2004. On May 24, 2004, **James Fugate** pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana.

Brandon L. Franklin, 21, of Kansas City, was sentenced to two years and six months in federal prison without parole on Sept. 30, 2004. On May 5, 2004, **Brandon Franklin** pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana.

Jacob L. Deal, 24, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty on Sept. 22, 2004, to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and marijuana. **Deal** admitted that he arranged for the purchase of five kilograms of methamphetamine and 400 pounds of marijuana from a confidential informant who was working with law enforcement. **Deal** admitted that he paid the informant \$3,000 as a down payment for the methamphetamine and marijuana.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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